

2.4 Fish Lake Valley (Basin 117)

The Fish Lake Valley hydrographic basin encompasses approximately 706 square miles in southwestern Esmeralda County (County), a portion of which extends into California.

The perennial yield for Fish Lake Valley is estimated at 30,000 AF/year. Appropriated water rights in the valley currently approximate 72,500 AF/year. The State Engineer has declared Fish Lake Valley a designated basin. A basin is typically "designated" when the groundwater resource is approaching full or over appropriation. The State Engineer has additional authority in the administration of the water resources in designated hydrographic basins. New applications will generally be heavily scrutinized. Water resources in designated basins may also require additional administration by local governing bodies such as water districts and water conservation boards (NRS 534.030 and 534.120).

Esmeralda County owns approximately 775 AF/year of water rights in the Fish Lake Valley basin (Figure's 7, 8 and 9). There are seven water rights held by various entities of County Government. These include three rights that are associated with the County's school system (Figure 8). Following are the details specific to each water right held by the County:

<u>Water Right</u>	<u>Conditions or management elements worth noting:</u>
²³ . Permit 60964	This water right's permit (POD known as the Hot Box Spring) is a re-filing of the cancelled permit 55794. The application map is found under the water right permit 54493. The water currently has a "Recreation" MOU designation, but has also been utilized via temporary permits in the past for construction purposes. The duty for this permit is 723.97 AFA.
²⁴ . Certificate 15850	This water right's POD is associated with the Dyer Elementary School's primary source of drinking water (Dyer School #1, north well). The priority date for this certificate is based on the cancellation/rescission hearing of February 12, 1999. A well driller report, log #2346, is available for the current POD. See permit 66618 for TCD information. The duty for this certificate is 3.25 AFA.
²⁵ . Permit 66618	This water right's POD is associated with the Dyer Elementary School's back up source of drinking water (Dyer School #2, south well). This water right and the water right associated with certificate 15850 have a TCD not to exceed 2.0 MGA or 6.14 AF/year.
²⁶ . Permit 55032	This water right supports the Dyer Elementary School's housing facilities for the school's teachers. The water right's permit was been cancelled and rescinded twice, once in 1995 and again in 1999. Consequentially, the priority date had been moved forward to 12-03-1998. The duty for this permit is 5.58 AFA.

- ²⁷. Certificate 15656 The duty associated with this water right is not to exceed 23.49 AF/year. A well driller report, log #43275, is available for the current POD, locally referred to as the "Community Center" well. The duty for this certificate is 23.49 AFA.
- ²⁸. Certificate 8153 The POD associated with this water right, the "Roadside Park" well, is no longer at the original well or survey location identified on the certificate. However, the new well and POD is within 300-feet and remains in the original documented quarter-quarter Section, maintaining regulatory requirements in regards to the POD for the water right. The appropriated duty is not to exceed 15 AF/year.
- ²⁹. Certificate 15098 This water right supplies water to the community's "Fire House" facility. A well driller report, log #42108, is available for the existing POD (Figure 9). The duty for this certificate is 1.0 AFA.